

Critical Zone processes sustain life on Earth



The Critical Zone supports all terrestrial life. Its complex interactions regulate the natural habitat and determine the availability of life-sustaining resources, such as

- **food production**
- **water quality**

These are but two of the many benefits or services provided by the Critical Zone. Such "Critical-Zone Services" expand upon the benefits provided by ecosystems to also include the coupled hydrologic, geochemical, and geomorphic processes that underpin those ecosystems.
